

CHAPTER 1

1. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1. Background

TVA develops land plans to facilitate management of 293,000 acres of public land around its reservoirs. These plans designate public land for specific uses with public and federal, state and local government participation. Plans have been completed and implemented for seven Tennessee River mainstream reservoirs and five tributary reservoirs. Older plans are being updated for selected mainstream reservoirs including Watts Bar Reservoir.

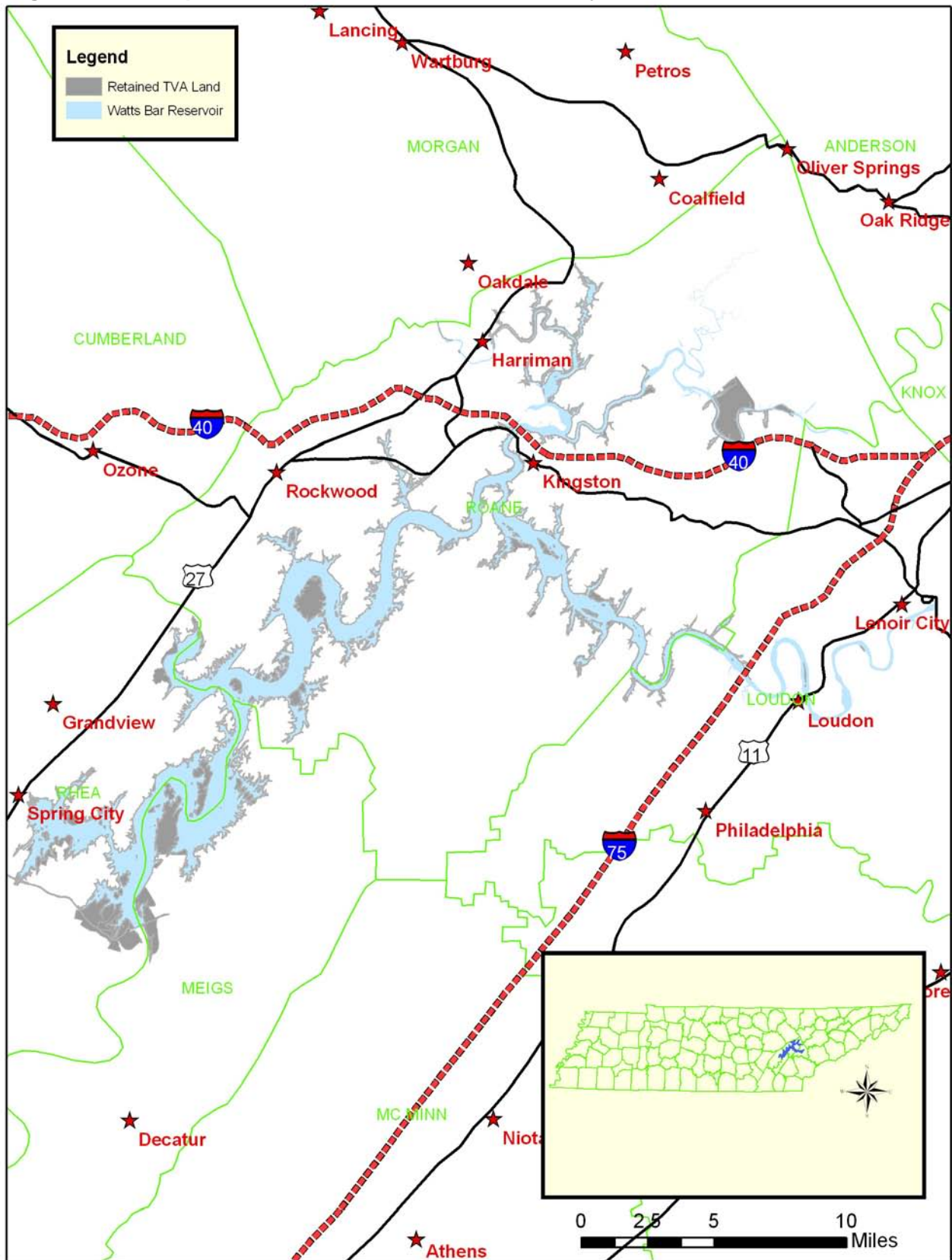
TVA manages public land on Watts Bar Reservoir to protect and enhance natural resources, generate prosperity, and improve the quality of life in the Tennessee Valley. This TVA public land, together with adjoining private land, is used for public and commercial recreation, economic development, natural resource management, and a variety of other community needs. The purpose of the land planning effort is to apply a systematic method of evaluating and identifying the most suitable use of public land under TVA stewardship. Public input, resource data and computer analyses are used to allocate land to the following land management categories: Project Operations, Sensitive Resource Management, Natural Resource Conservation, Economic Development, Developed Recreation, and Shoreline Access. These allocations are then used to guide the types of activities that would be considered on each parcel. Each Reservoir Land Management Plan (Plan) is submitted for approval to the TVA Board of Directors and adopted as policy to provide for long-term stewardship and accomplishment of TVA responsibilities under the TVA Act of 1933.

Watts Bar Reservoir is an impoundment of the Tennessee River formed by Watts Bar Dam, which is located at Tennessee River Mile (TRM) 530 in Meigs and Rhea County, Tennessee (see Figure 1-1). TVA began construction of the dam in July 1939; reservoir filling began in January 1942; the lock was placed in permanent operation in February 1943; and the last of the generating units were placed in operation in April 1944 (TVA, 1949). Construction included a dike to protect part of the City of Kingston, Tennessee from flooding.

The reservoir flows from the northeast to southwest through Loudon, Meigs, Rhea, and Roane Counties in east Tennessee. The reservoir extends 72.4 miles up the Tennessee River to Fort Loudoun Dam, and 62.5 miles to Melton Hill Dam on the Clinch River. It also includes parts of the Emory and Little Emory Rivers (See Figure 1-1). TVA originally acquired approximately 54,702 acres of land for the Watts Bar Project including flowage and easements (TVA 1949). Subsequent purchases for fossil and nuclear plants, transfers and/or sales of land to USDOE and for various commercial, industrial, residential, and recreational uses have resulted in a current balance of 16,000 acres of TVA public land being available for lands planning. At full pool, the reservoir shoreline length is 721 miles; and surface area is 39,000 acres. Of the 721 miles of shoreline, 340 miles (47 percent) is available for Shoreline Access, which includes current development.

The Watts Bar plan, unlike previous TVA reservoir land plans, would include Integrated Resources Management (IRM). An IRM based plan would establish management prescriptions or activities for conserving and enhancing visual, recreational, cultural, and

Figure 1-1. Map of Watts Bar Reservoir and Vicinity



natural resources on parcels allocated for project operations, sensitive resources management, natural resource conservation, and developed recreation. Through the IRM approach, TVA could better manage its multiple stewardship issues, in conjunction with stakeholder interests. The IRM process recognizes that the management or use of one resource affects the management or use of others; therefore, an integrated approach is more effective than considering resources individually.

1.2. Purpose and Need

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is proposing to update the 1988 Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan (1988 Plan) for TVA public land around Watts Bar Reservoir. Currently, TVA owns and manages about 16,000 acres of land on the reservoir. TVA intends to use an updated Reservoir Land Management Plan (Plan) to guide future decision making and to systematically manage its reservoir properties. The Plan is intended to be consistent with the purposes of the Watts Bar Project, which is a multipurpose reservoir operated by TVA for navigation, flood control, power production, recreation, and other uses. Through the planning process, TVA seeks to address issues and concerns raised by the public including protection of sensitive resources.

TVA intends to provide a clear statement of how project land would be managed in the future based on scientific, cultural, and economic principles, and on public needs. TVA will consider a wide range of possible land uses in the development of the proposed alternatives for the Plan. Each parcel of land was reviewed to determine its physical capability for supporting certain uses, other potential suitable uses of such land, and the needs of the public expressed during the scoping process. The Plan alternatives were developed using information obtained from the public, various state and federal agencies, elected officials, resource conservation groups, and other interested groups, existing and newly collected field data, both on land conditions and resources, and technical knowledge of TVA staff. Based on this information, the Watts Bar Planning Team will allocate land parcels into one of seven land use zones. These zones are listed below:

Zone 1 - Non-TVA Shoreland

Zone 2 - Project Operations

Zone 3 - Sensitive Resource Management

Zone 4 - Natural Resource Conservation

Zone 5 - Economic Development

Zone 6 - Developed Recreation

Zone 7 - Shoreline Access

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to assess environmental impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives for allocating TVA public land on Watts Bar Reservoir and to provide a means for involving the public in the decision-making process.

The goals of the Watts Bar Plan revision include the following:

Goal 1: Apply a systematic method of evaluating and identifying the most suitable uses of TVA public lands using resource data, stakeholder input, suitability and capability analyses, and TVA staff input.

Goal 2: Identify land use zone allocations to optimize public benefit and balance competing demands for the use of public lands.

Goal 3: Identify land use zone allocations to support TVA's broad regional resource development mission. TVA reservoir properties are managed to provide multiple public benefits including recreation, conservation, and economic development.

Goal 4: Provide a clear process by which TVA will respond to requests for use of TVA public land.

Goal 5: Comply with federal regulations and Executive Orders.

Goal 6: Ensure the protection of significant resources, including threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, wetlands, unique habitats, natural areas, water quality, and the visual character of the reservoir.

Goal 7: Provide a mechanism that allows local, state, and federal infrastructure projects when the use is compatible with the zone allocation.

1.3. The Decision

The TVA Board of Directors will decide which updated Watts Bar Reservoir Land Plan alternative to adopt or to continue the use of the existing 1988 Plan.

1.4. Other Pertinent Environmental Reviews or Documentation

Watts Bar Reservoir Land management Plan (TVA, 1988)

In August 1988, the TVA Board of Directors approved a land management plan to guide TVA resource management and property administration decisions on 10,405 acres of TVA land on Watts Bar Reservoir. A multidisciplinary TVA team undertook a detailed planning process that resulted in the land use designation in the plan. Both public input and information from TVA specialists were analyzed in making land use decisions. It was determined that Watts Bar Reservoir supported 19 land use allocations (see section 2.1). The 207 tracts of land on Watts Bar reservoir were allocated for one or more of these 19 uses.

Record of Decision for the Lower Watts Bar Reservoir (USDOE, 1995)

The record of decision for Lower Watts Bar Reservoir was prepared by the Department of Energy in accordance with the requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act to present the remedy which addresses the contamination of the Watts Bar Reservoir Area by past USDOE operations. Remediation includes the continuance of institutional controls and long-term monitoring of water, sediment, and fish. Institutional controls are implemented primarily by the Watts Bar Working Group (WBWG), created in 1991, of which TVA is a signatory member along with the Environmental Protection Agency, Tennessee Department of Conservation, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Energy. The (WBWG) implements a notification and

screening methodology for member agency actions which may be impacted by the contaminants, whereby USDOE can then identify contaminants and provide appropriate remediation.

Proposed Sale of TVA Tract No. XWBR-688IE (Parcels 1 and 2) on Watts Bar Reservoir to Scientific Ecology Group, Inc. and Approval of Operations of Additional Facilities and Modifications to Existing Facilities, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 1995).

TVA assessed the environmental impacts associated with alternatives derived from a request by Scientific Ecology Group, Inc. (SEG) to purchase TVA tract XWBR-688IE on which it had been operating under a lease agreement. In addition SEG requested approval to build and operate additional waste management facilities, and modify the operation of existing facilities. The preferred alternative allows the sale and operation changes with commitments by SEG to reduce impacts to water quality, and expand and maintain the TVA Grassy Creek Habitat Protection Area onto adjacent portions of Parcels 1 and 2.

Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI): An Assessment of Residential Shoreline Development Impacts in the Tennessee Valley (TVA, 1998a).

TVA completed an EIS on possible alternatives for managing residential shoreline development throughout the Tennessee River Valley. Under the alternative selected, sensitive natural and cultural resource values of reservoir shorelines would be conserved and retained by preparing a shoreline categorization for individual reservoirs; by voluntary donations of conservation easements over flowage easement or other shore land to protect scenic landscapes; and by adopting a “maintain and gain” public shoreline policy when considering requests for additional shoreline access rights. The Watts Bar Integrated Reservoir Land Management Plan EIS will tier from the Final SMI EIS.

The residential shoreline on Watts Bar Reservoir comprises 340 miles or 47 percent of the total 721 miles of shoreline. In accordance with the TVA Shoreline Management Policy (SMP), TVA intends to categorize the residential shoreline of Watts Bar Reservoir based on resource data collected from field surveys. A resource inventory will be completed for sensitive species and their potential habitats, archaeological resources, and wetlands along the residential shoreline of Watts Bar Reservoir. Depending on the sensitivity of the resource, these shoreline reaches will be placed in one of the three categories.

Shoreline Protection for shoreline segments that support sensitive ecological resources, such as federal-listed threatened or endangered species, high-priority, state-listed species, wetlands with high function and value, archaeological or historical sites of national significance, and certain navigation restriction zones. Within this category, all significant resources will be protected.

Residential Mitigation for shoreline segments where resource conditions or certain navigation restrictions would require analyses of individual development proposals, additional data, or specific mitigation measures.

Managed Residential for shoreline segments where no sensitive resources are known to exist. Standard environmental review would be completed for any proposed action.

Docks and other residential shoreline development would not be permitted on land within the Shoreline Protection Category because of the sensitive nature of the resources contained in this area or because of navigation restrictions. Section 26a applications for docks and other residential shoreline development in the Residential Mitigation Area would

be reviewed by TVA for compliance with the SMP (TVA, 1998a) and the Section 26a regulations. Development restrictions or mitigation measures may be necessary in this shoreline category. Section 26a applications for docks and other shoreline development in the Managed Residential Area would also be reviewed for compliance with the SMP and Section 26a regulations.

As new data are collected on the spatial location and significance of endangered species, wetlands, cultural resources, or navigation restrictions, adjustments to category boundaries may be necessary. Property owners should check with the TVA Watts Bar Clinch Watershed Team Office for the current categorization of an area.

Sale of Boeing Land, Environmental Assessment (USDOE, 2000)

USDOE prepared this EA to review the impacts of selling a narrow strip of former TVA land on the Clinch River to a private developer. Sale of this property reduces the amount of non-TVA owned publicly owned shore line and changes it to shoreline available for shoreline access.

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Kingston Fossil Plant Alternative Coal Receiving Systems (TVA, 1999)

In a Record of Decision dated March 10, 1997, TVA decided to implement an alternative from the 1997 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Kingston Fossil Plant (KIF) Alternative Coal Receiving system which would result in the reduction of coal transportation costs by the construction of a new railroad spur from Harriman, Tennessee to KIF. This alternative would include the railroad crossing the Emory River and several streams and impact the Swan Pond area of Roane County including both private and TVA lands. Prior to construction, TVA received a proposal from one of the railroads providing service to KIF which allows the two railroads involved direct access to the KIF yard via existing facilities and reduces coal transportation costs by eliminating associated switching fees. With the decision to use this new alternative the environmental and physical impacts from the construction of the railroad spur did not occur. However, TVA plans to retain property purchased before cancellation of the railroad spur.

Environmental Assessment, Agricultural Lands Licensing for 1999 through 2003 Crop Years; Fontana, Fort Loudoun, Melton Hill, Tellico and Watts Bar Reservoirs (TVA, 1999a)

TVA reviewed the environmental impacts associated with licensing 74 tracts of TVA land totaling over 1,200 acres to individuals for agricultural use on lands around five TVA reservoirs in east Tennessee and North Carolina. 34 of these tracts totaling 335 acres are on Watts Bar Reservoir and are part of the TVA lands currently being planned. TVA is currently reassessing the continued licensing of these tracts.

Lower Watts Bar Management Unit Watts Bar Reservoir, Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2000).

TVA completed an EA on possible alternatives for determining the scope and intensity of TVA's resource management activities for the Lower Watts Bar Management Unit (LWBU) and implementing a management plan for the LWBU. The 3,481 acre LWBU is a major component of the TVA land expected to be available for planning on the Watts Bar Reservoir, the LWBU plan will be incorporated into the Watts Bar Integrated Resource Management Plan and modified as appropriate.

Proposed Land Use Allocation Change and Request for a Commercial Recreation License and Section 26a Approval for Whitestone Country Inn, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2001)

TVA reviewed the environmental impacts associated with the approval of a request by Whitestone County Inn to change the land use allocation from Wildlife and Forest Management, and historic preservation to Commercial recreation; approve under section 26a; and issue a commercial recreation license for a 6 boat slip marina for 0.76 acres of TVA land. Included in the approval conditions is the transfer of 11.47 acres of lakefront and shoreline property to TVA to replace resources degraded by the operation.

Modernization of Turbines at Watts Bar Hydro Plant, Rhea County, Tennessee; Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2001a)

The environmental impacts attributed to the proposed modernization of the electric generating turbines at the Watts Bar Dam and Hydro Plant were reviewed. Commitments of the action alternative include the stabilization of shoreline on TVA land considered by the current planning process.

Proposed Issuance of Regulations Under Section 26a if the TVA Act for Non-navigable Houseboats, Storage tanks, Marina Sewage Pump-Out Stations, Wastewater Outfalls and Septic Systems, and Development within Flood Control Storage Zones, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2001b)

In 2001, TVA completed an EA for its issuance of regulations for non-navigable houseboats, storage tanks, marina sewage pump-out stations, wastewater outfalls, septic systems, and development within flood control storage zones of TVA reservoirs. The complete update of the 1971 Section 26a regulations, incorporating the standards for residential development in the SMI EIS and the miscellaneous updates above, became final on September 8, 2003. Taken together, these regulations comprehensively updated the TVA requirements for development along the shoreline of TVA reservoirs, including Watts Bar. The regulations for marina sewage pump-out stations and holding tanks, fuel storage tanks and handling facilities, and development within the flood control storage zones were new. Actions requiring section 26a approval by TVA frequently are requested and occur on TVA reservoir lands and consequently are governed by TVA section 26a regulation. Complete details on the new Section 26a regulations may be obtained from TVA watershed teams or by viewing the regulations at www.tva.gov/river/26apermits/index.htm

Commercial Recreation License and Marina Expansion for Blue Springs Marina, Roane County Tennessee, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2002)

TVA reviewed the environmental impacts associated with approving and issuing a license for a request by Blue Springs Marina to expand and operate it's marina on Watts Bar Reservoir. The proposal includes the addition of 104 boat slips and improvements to private property, TVA land, and the adjacent Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency boat ramp facility.

1.5. The Scoping Process

TVA determined that the development of an EIS would allow a better understanding of the impacts of the proposed land use changes. Accordingly, TVA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on February 16, 2004.

From February 16, 2001 to October 8, 2004, TVA sought comments from citizens, various state and federal agencies, elected officials, resource conservation groups, and other

organizations. TVA advertised public participation opportunities through news releases, paid advertisements in newspapers, and letters and questionnaires were sent to individuals on the Watts Bar Reservoir mailing list. Stakeholder organizations and local, state, and federal agencies were contacted for scoping meetings. To announce the public comment period and public meeting dates, TVA placed paid advertisements in numerous local newspapers (Table 1.5-1). Public notices were also displayed at various public places around Watts Bar Reservoir.

The following scoping activities were undertaken to identify issues and define alternatives to be considered in the Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan:

<u>February 16, 2004</u>	A Notice of Intent was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> alerting other agencies and concerned public of the EIS.
<u>April 18, 2004</u>	A Revised Notice of Intent was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> extending the scoping comment period to June 30, 2004.
<u>August 16, 2004</u>	An announcement of the September 28, 2004 Public Meeting and extension of the Public Comment period to October 8, 2004 was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> .
<u>September, 2004</u>	TVA Staff met with Stake Holder Groups and individuals in the Watts Bar Area.
<u>September 28, 2004</u>	Public Scoping meeting at Roane State Community College in Kingston Tennessee attended by 142 people.
<u>October 8, 2004</u>	The scoping comment period concluded with over 200 comments on the proposal.

In addition to the notices in the *Federal Register*, public notices appeared in regional and local newspapers in August, 2004. In addition, there were several newspaper articles published during the comment period. From March 2004 through October 2004, public participation was sought to assist the Watts Bar Clinch Watershed Team in developing a land management plan to identify specific future uses for TVA managed lands around Watts Bar Reservoir. To provide additional opportunities for public input, TVA hosted a public meeting. During the public meeting, information forms, writing material, and a stenographer were available on site for people to make comments. A total of 142 participants attended the public meeting in Harriman, Tennessee. Over 1,000 information forms were mailed to interested people, and information forms were distributed at over 20 briefing sessions with Stakeholder groups. In addition, information about the proposed Watts Bar Plan and an interactive information form were available on the TVA web site. TVA received 95 individual letters or emails from 88 individuals, 126 information forms either mailed or directly input on the web site, and a petition with 183 signatures. Added together TVA has received specific comments from 214 individuals or a total of 397 including the petition. See Scoping Document in Appendix A.

Table 1.5-1. List of Newspapers with Paid Advertisements

Newspaper	Location	Date Ad Appeared
Knoxville News Sentinel	Knoxville , Tennessee	September 15 and 22, 2004
The Oak Ridger	Oak Ridge, Tennessee	September, 15, 2004
Clinton Currier News	Clinton, Tennessee	September 15, 2004
Daily Post-Athenian	Athens, Tennessee	September 15, 2004
Roane County News	Kingston, Tennessee	September 15 and 22, 2004
The Rockwood Times	Rockwood, Tennessee	September 13, 2004
Monroe County Advocate	Madisonville, Tennessee	September 15, 2004
News Herald	Loudon, Tennessee	September 13, 2004

1.5.1. Public Response

The majority of the public response to the NOI focused on the use of public lands for private residential and commercial development and the associated environmental impacts that could occur. Many comments expressed concerns about the importance of water quality, terrestrial and aquatic ecology, and questioned the economic need for development given the success of similar past projects. There were also many comments about TVA's management of public lands, the planning for the management and use of public lands, and the potential results of TVA's management and planning.

The public responses in support of the increasing economic and community development described the potential to have a positive impact to the area economy. Commenters cited boost to the local economy and an increase in land values, jobs, and taxes available for local government as positive results. They cited the opportunity to create jobs, commerce, increase tax bases, and infrastructure as important to their communities and expressed the need for a new 'Mixed Use' TVA land zone utilizing a variety of uses, such as residential, commercial/light industrial, and recreation (live, work, play) developments. However, several respondents on this issue commented on the need to limit or stop industrial, commercial and residential development on Watts Bar Reservoir, expressing a concern for the destruction of natural surroundings due to continued development, and that the loss of undeveloped natural land would decrease the socio-economic value of the area.

Commenters opposing development stated that TVA should keep all land public and not develop it. They were concerned that other public lands similarly designated would also be made available for development. Commenters stated that selling the land is contrary to public opinion, and also contrary to past TVA decisions not to develop this public land, and would therefore increase public distrust of TVA.

Much of the public response focused on philosophical opposition to use of public lands for private residential and commercial development and the associated impacts that would occur. From all the comments provided, six predominant themes or general issues were identified: Natural Resources, Loss of Public Lands, Residential/Commercial Developments and Socio-economic, Land Use Policy and Planning, Recreation Resources, and Proposals (i.e., Development of Lowe's Branch, and the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site). Of these, most comments concerned Natural Resources, Loss of Public Lands, Residential, Commercial Developments, and Proposals.

1.5.2. Allocation Proposals

TVA received comments which either confirmed or requested changes for use allocations regarding 43 specific parcels of land around Watts Bar Reservoir. Requests to keep or change allocation to Zone 4 were most frequently made by individuals, stakeholder groups, and in a petition. Local city and county governments requested large local tracts of TVA land to support commercial, residential, or recreation development. Specifically, the majority of the comments were concerned with the parcels consisting of the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site (1,223 acres) and the Lowe's Branch site (1,182 acres) near Watts Bar Dam. Many respondents expressed either support or opposition to the development of the Lowe's Branch Area and the Former Breeder Reactor site. Opponents expressed concern that it would reduce wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities in the area. Proponents of development expressed the view that it would increase commerce and jobs for the area.

Former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site. The proposed use of this land ranges from development to preservation. The City of Oak Ridge and Roane County propose the site should be designated for 'mixed use' and developed. Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AORR) and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TWCP) provided a development plan recognizing previous disturbances and using TVA's existing land use zones. The Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau asked for the site to be used for the Archery Shooters Association Tennessee Pro/Am Event for at least the next 5 years. USDOE expressed concern that any residential development would be incompatible with their adjoining security training facility. Other commenters stated the site should not be developed and be left as a public wildlife management area. Lastly, TVA has expressed an interest in using about 180 acres of the site as a landfill for fly ash from the TVA Bull Run and Kingston, Fossil Plants.

Lowe's Branch Site. Rhea and Meigs County officials commented that development of the Lowe's Branch Area would be economically beneficial for Meigs and Rhea County, and that a 'Mixed Use' development could change the economic condition of the area. Conversely, AORR, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), TCWP, Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS), a petition from the Friends of Watts Bar Lake, and approximately 40 individuals asserted that the area was one of a few left for primitive recreation and should be allocated for Zone 4 and not be developed. Lastly, TWRA commented that the area is used heavily for hunting and other types of outdoor recreation and it should be transferred to TWRA.

1.5.3. Issue and Resource Identification

TVA internal reviews of current and historical information, reservoir data collected, and public input were used to identify the following resources/issues for evaluation in this EIS. The effect of each alternative on these issues will be evaluated:

Aesthetics and Visual Resources are those areas and parcels of TVA land that allow and distinct visual qualities.

Cultural Resources are archaeological and historic resources on or near TVA Watts Bar Reservoir lands including known National Register sites. TVA will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Sensitive (Endangered and Threatened) Species are populations of state- or federally-listed or rare plants and animals known to exist in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir, including, their occurrence and habitats on TVA lands and waters. TVA will comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Terrestrial Ecology is the natural systems of plants and animals supporting the indigenous ecosystems and broad natural community types found adjacent to and on TVA Watts Bar Reservoir lands. Issues include the identification and protection of significant natural features, rare species habitat, important wildlife habitat, or locally uncommon natural community types.

Wetlands are an important ecosystem for many types of plants and animals found on TVA land and along the Watts Bar Reservoir shoreline. TVA will comply with Executive order 11990 on wetlands and the Clean Water Act.

Flood Plains are important to flood control and water quality issues and are productive natural areas. TVA will comply with Executive Order 11988 on Flood Plains.

Recreation has a broad range of activities on the Watts Bar Reservoir. Recreation opportunities are an important resource for public use of Watts Bar Reservoir lands and waters.

Water Quality and Shoreline conditions are issues that affect the overall aquatic ecological conditions of Watts Bar Reservoir. Water quality includes activities causing shoreline erosion as well as pollution, litter and debris control, and other activities

Aquatic Ecology is the natural systems of plants and animals supporting the indigenous ecosystems and broad natural community types found in the waters of TVA Watts Bar Reservoir and its tributaries. Issues include the identification and protection of rare species habitat, important aquatic habitat, or locally uncommon aquatic community types.

Socioeconomic issues and resources include the current population, labor force, employment statistics, income, and property values of the Watts Bar region. Also important are existing and potential industrial sites and commercial and residential development near to the reservoir or on TVA lands. Other issues are the potential impacts to minority and low-income communities.

Navigation of commercial and recreational water craft is an important resource on Watts Bar Reservoir. Issues include recreational boat traffic, as well as commercial navigation.

Prime Farmland is land with the best combination of characteristics to produce agricultural and silvicultural products. An important issue is the conversion of prime farmland to urban or industrial developments. TVA will comply with the Prime and Unique Farmlands Act.

Land Use designation is the purpose of TVA land use planning on Watts Bar Reservoir. Issues include the importance of contiguous undeveloped shoreline, enforcement of TVA policies, and loss of public lands, balance of land uses, providing adequate funds and personnel to enforce TVA policies, and control of shoreline.

Managed Areas are special and unique natural areas on or in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir set aside for a particular management objective or lands that are known to

contain sensitive biological, cultural, or scenic resources. Typically they are parks, preserves, refuges, recreation areas or other protected areas.

Air Quality is an important resource for public health and welfare. An important issue is compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards which establish safe concentration limits for air pollution.

1.6. Necessary Federal Permits or Licenses

No federal permits are required to develop a Plan. Site-specific information on reservoir resources has been characterized in this EIS and potential impacts on these resources were considered in making land use allocation recommendations. Appropriate agencies regulating wetlands, endangered species, and historic resources have been consulted during this planning process. When specific actions, such as a dock, building, road or walking trail, are proposed, additional environmental reviews for these actions would be undertaken.